

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants' disclosure is directed to a plasma display panel (PDP). The PDP includes an exhaust pipe disposed outside of the PDP and a gas adsorption member which is movable within a region of the exhaust pipe. The gas adsorption member has one or more holes formed therein. The PDP also includes a communication hole through which gases may pass between the PDP and the exhaust pipe. A combined total cross section area of the one or more holes is greater than a cross section area of the communication hole.

On page 3 of the Official Action, under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103," the Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by 'Gas Display Panel,' IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, June 1974 pages 284-285 ("IBM") and Pepi (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,284). In the substantive portion of the rejections, however, the Examiner appears to reject claims 1-10 based on a combination of IBM and Pepi. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection is treated herein as a rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over IBM and Pepi.

IBM discloses a gas display panel. As shown in FIG. 1, the panel includes a ring-shaped getter 8 disposed in a pumping stem 14. A hole 4 is formed in the panel. The ring-shaped getter 8 is fixed to the hole 4 via a support 6.

Pepi discloses a pumping stem for a flat display screen. As shown in FIG. 3, an aperture 22 is formed in the display screen. The pumping stem 20 is attached to the display screen so as to cover the aperture 22. As shown in FIGs. 3 and 4, multiple getter elements 15 are disposed around the aperture 22.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely;

...a communication hole communicating...with an exhaust pipe disposed outside of the PDP...

...a gas adsorption member having one or more holes...formed therein, the gas adsorption member being movable within a region of the exhaust pipe. (Emphasis added).

This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 6, lines 4-5. No new matter has been added.

With respect to IBM, IBM's getter is fixed to the hole. See page 1, paragraph 3 and FIG. 1. Thus, IBM's getter is not "movable within a region of the exhaust pipe," as required by Applicants' claim 1.

With respect to Pepi, Pepi discloses a plurality of getters disposed around a perimeter of the aperture 22. See Pepi col. 3, lines 12-24 and FIGs. 3 and 4. Thus, while Pepi discloses a plurality of getters that may be formed in a ring-like shape, this is not the same as "a gas adsorption member having one or more holes...formed therein," as required by Applicants' claim 1 (emphasis added). Further, in Pepi, "[t]he advantage of disposing the getter peripherally with respect to the exhaust tube is that section of the exhaust tube is not reduced before closure of the tube." See Pepi col. 3, lines 18-19. If Pepi's getters were not fixed to plate 1 (see FIG. 3), the getters would move, thus increasing the chance that at least one of the multiple getters will block the exhaust tube before closure of the tube. Thus, Pepi's getters must be fixed to plate 1. Further, Pepi is silent with respect to movability of its getters. Accordingly, Pepi also does not disclose "a gas adsorption member...being movable within a region of the exhaust pipe," as required by Applicants' claim 1.

It is because Applicants include the feature of "a gas adsorption member having one or more holes...formed therein, the gas adsorption member being movable within a region of the exhaust pipe," that the following advantages are achieved. Namely, for a PDP with a movable getter, if the getter moves into a position such that it is covering at least a portion of the communication hole, gases may still flow between the PDP and the exhaust pipe by way of the one or more holes.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

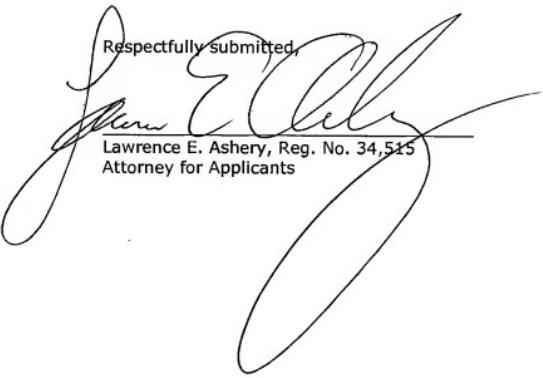
Claims 4-5, 9 and 10 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 4-5, 9 and 10 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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